



HF Happenings



619

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iaru.org www.iaru-r1.org

August
2014

DXCC News

The July 2014 DX Advisory Committee Report (Doc #27), which was submitted by Arne Gjerning, N7KA, Chairman of the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC), to the ARRL Board of Directors (BOD) and Program and Services Committee (PSC), is now made public and contains some interesting subjects:

Remote stations - The DXAC favoured the proposed change of rule I.9, stating, however, some distance limitation should be included for the remote station. Using an idea similar to that used for contest stations, establishing a distance of 200 km separation between the remote station and the operator's home station location and that no part of a remote station can be located more than 200 km from any other part.

Entity Criteria - The DXAC proposes that NO Change be made to the entity criteria at this time and any efforts presently in process for any entity to gain membership in the UN or the ITU be allowed to take its due course. This vote does not indicate a failure of the DXAC to reach a consensus. It does, however, represent the divided opinion of the DX community on this subject.

For the complete report, go to

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/About%20ARRL/Committee%20Reports/2014/July/Doc_27.pdf

"Your transmitter must have a fault; there is smoke coming from my speaker!"

August

23 - Radio technology in Action in Johannesburg;
Rotary Great Train Race, Middelburg
29 and 30 - Hantam Meat Festival, Calvinia
29 to 31 - Gauteng Getaway Show, JHB
31 - CQ South Africa CW Contest
28 Aug To 5 Sept - Clanwilliam Wild Flower Show

September

5 - Casual Day; Secretary's Day
6 - Cellar2Cellar Trail Run and Wine Experience, Stellenbosch
6 and 7 - IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day; Staalwater Trail Run & M.T.B. Cghallenge, Caledon
11 - Closing date October RAE
13 - Radio Technology in Action in Pretoria; Baa-Baa-Licious Braai Feast, Riebeek Valley; Baviaanskloof Trail Run, Geelhoutbos
16 - World Ozone day
21 to 27 - IARU Region 1 General Conference, Albenia, Bulgaria
24 - Heritage Day; National Braai Day
24 to 28 - Oceana Hout Bay Seafood Festival
25 - Rosh Hashanah
27 and 28 - CQ WW RTTY Contest

GOLIST Business Decision

For years, the DXer's number one tool for QSL information has been John Shelton's, K1XN, "GoList". The following was announced by John this past week (12 August): "Hi Folks, - As you know, I have been having sight problems with the only eye that I have remaining. It is taking much longer this time to recover from this episode. In considering my health issues, I needed to and did make a business decision today. It was a very hard one to make.

As of today, the GOLIST is going 'FREE'.

I will continue to upload to the download page, the weekly data file and DX Alert. The download page will still require an access code. I will continue to sell the 'WIN EQF*' Logging software, the RAC Flying Horse Call Book CD.

I will accept donations via PayPal to help keep the web site up and running. A PayPal Donation button will be added to the Order page and Download page. A donation is appreciated but not mandatory.

You folks have supported Golist for many years and I appreciate that very much. That is what made this decision so hard. You guys are special and I wanted you to hear of the business change direct from me first. You now have access to GoData files for as long as I am able to produce them. The password you now use will remain active unless you ask me to change it.

Thank you again for your support for all these years - John K1XN"



Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org
And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk and www.zs4bfm.co.za/sota.asp



HF Happenings

CQ Southern Africa HF Contests

The aim of the HF Contests is for participants to contact as many amateurs in Southern Africa (refer to General Rules 1.b.) as possible on the 20, 40 and 80 m amateur bands. The SARL HF CW contest takes place on Sunday 31 August 2014 from 13:00 to 16:30 UTC (15:00 to 18:30 CAT). The following frequencies may be used

The following categories of participation are available - a) Single Operator Single Band; b) Single Operator All Band; c) Multi Operator Single Band or d) Multi Operator All Band. Individual competitors and club stations are encouraged to compete.

The exchange is a RST report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001. Digital contacts count 2 points. Count two points for each area (see below) on each band. Count 2 points for each stations contacted on all three bands. The call areas are - Area 1: ZS1 Western Cape; Area 2: ZS2 Eastern Cape; Area 3: ZS3 Northern Cape; Area 4: ZS4 Free State; Area 5: ZS5 KwaZulu-Natal; Area 6: ZS6 Gauteng, Mpumalanga; Limpopo and North West; Area 7: 3B8 Mauritius, 3DA Swaziland, 7P Lesotho, 7Q Malawi, C9 Mozambique, Z2 Zimbabwe, 5R Madagascar, FR Reunion Island and FH Mayotte, and Area 8: 9J Zambia, A2 Botswana, D2 Angola, V5 Namibia, ZD9 Gough and Tristan da Cunha Islands, ZS7 Antarctica and ZS8 Marion Island. Contacts with stations outside these areas are allowed, QSO points may be claimed but no zone or three-bander points may be claimed.

Awards. Certificates are awarded to the first three places and the highest single band score in each contest. There is also a trophy for the highest combined score in both contests. A trophy is awarded to the CW contestant in his or her first year of CW achieving the highest score. Candidates for this trophy shall state the date of the issue of the licence on the summary sheet.

Logs can be submitted in Cabrillo / ADIF format or make use of the MS Excel Spreadsheet available from www.zs4bfn.co.za/downloads.asp. Send your log to the Bloemfontein Amateur Radio Club by 24 August 2014 to zs4bfn@gmail.com or zs4bfn@netactive.co.za



SARL YL Sprint Results

The committee received eight logs for the SARL YL Sprint held on 9 August - six logs were from young ladies and the other two from gentlemen. These nine radio amateurs made 174 QSOs.

- 1st Colette Rundle, ZS2CR, 117 Points
- 2nd Heather Holland, ZS6YE, 104 points
- 3rd Jenni Reilly, ZS4J, 100 points
- 4th Dawn Snyders, ZS5ME, 97 points
- 5th Sheila Coleman, ZS5SC, 77 points

6th Kempton Park Amateur Radio Technical Society, ZS6KTS, 67 points (operated by Lucia Oliver, ZS6LO, and Ronel Rossouw, ZR6RR)

And fashionably dressed in kilt, sporran, top hat and cement boots - 7th Geoff Levey, ZS6C, and Keith Liddle, ZS6AGF, 18 points each.

Congratulations to Colette.

Updated Worldwide Amateur 5 MHz Allocation Chart

It has been several months since the last version of the Worldwide Amateur 5 MHz Allocations Chart has appeared. Due to the increasing amount of allocations and in terms of readability and accommodation it has no longer proved possible to retain it in an A4 pdf-type format.

Consequently it has become necessary to re-configure it into an alternative (excel file) format. Apologies that the information is not available in as 'at-a-glance' format that was previously possible, but it is hoped it is as comprehensive.

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"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go."

(Continued from page 2)

The current updated Worldwide Amateur 5 MHz Allocations Chart can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/oofmemh>. Cheers, Paul G4MWO

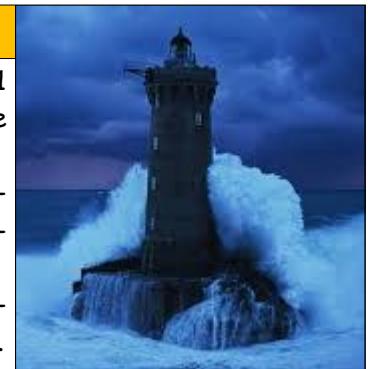
ILLW sets many new records

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) had 541 registrations from 56 countries this year making new records in the annual fun-event.

Dubbed the 'Year of the virgin' some 20 per cent of all registrations were first-time activations. New countries for the event were from Barbados and Kuwait.

Outstanding this year has been the USA with 91, an all time high exceeding 80 it achieved in 2011, obviously buoyed by a large number of virgin activations. Similar first-time portable operations of former maritime navigation structures came from several countries and surprisingly numbered more than 100.

Already 30 registrations are listed for the ILLW in 2015 that will be held on 15 and 16 August 2015. For reports from many who enjoyed participating last weekend can be read on the website illw.net



African DX

A2, Botswana (C9 Cancelled). Frosty, K5LBU, has announced that the planned trip to Mozambique (C9) by Arnold, WB6OBJ, and him has been cancelled due to medical problems with Arnold. However, Frosty will be going to Botswana (A2) in early September and is looking for operators for a 4 - 7 days trip. If you are interested, contact him ASAP via e-mail at 3da0cf@gmail.com



6W, Senegal. Sigi, DL7DF, will be on holiday with his XYL Sabine in Senegal between 1 and 13 November. He will operate as DL7DF/6W on all bands from 160 - 10 metres using CW, SBB, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV as often as possible. The location is Somone at the coastline of Senegal near Dakar. He states, "But please do not forget. This time I'm on vacation with a little bid Ham Radio." QSL via DL7DF, direct or by the DARC Bureau. For more info and updates, see <http://www.dl7df.com/6w/index.html>

7Q, Malawi. Some news from Roger, ZS6RJ - I wanted to give you an update regarding changes in timing for our 7QAA Malawi Dxpedition. This was originally set for November 2014. We now have fixed dates - it will be taking place in March 2015 from grid KH77ap. Planning is for a 20 member team operation, split into two teams, the members of which will be confirmed and announced by the end of October this year.

The CW only team will be active from 11 to 21 March and the SSB/RTTY team will be active from 22 March to 1 April.

10 members per team with 4 stations running continuously over the 20 day period, as previously planned. Activity will take place on 160 to 10 metres, with the SSB team also covering the CQ WPX SSB contest.

African Islands

VQ9, Chagos Island. Bob, N7XR, announces a 3-week long operation, starting on 25 August, from Diego Garcia (AF-006, WW Loc. MI62er). He will be active as VQ9XR on 160 to 10 m on CW, RTTY and SSB running an IC-7600, an amplifier, Stepp-BigIR and a SpiderBeam. QSL via N7XR direct. <http://www.wake-diego2014.org/>



ZD8, Ascension Island. Steve, G3ZVW, will be active as ZD8N from Ascension Island (AF-003, WLOTA 1491) between 21 and 29 August. He will be active during the morning and evening hours and during the weekends. QSL via home call.



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D4, Cape Verde. Fran, EA7FTR, will be active as D44KS from Boa Vista between 5 September and 10 October. Activity will be limited to his spare time (job commitments) on 40 - 6 metres using SSB and RTTY. QSL via EB7DX.

IOTA Frequencies

CW: 28 040, 24 920, 21 040, 18 098, 14 040, 10 114, 7 030 and 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560, 28 460, 24 950, 21 260, 18 128, 14 260, 7 055 and 3 760 kHz

The QSL that was half a century in arriving!

Bill, WA4FAT

Better late than never, they say, and a recent Amateur Radio experience echoed that sentiment for me in a big, big way.

Many of us long-time hams experience ebbs and flow in our level of activity, and I'm no exception. Licensed in 1962, I was an impassioned 12-year old then who just couldn't get enough of our wonderful hobby. Aside from school and sleep, my days and nights were filled to overflowing with Amateur Radio. I mean I was on the air every single day, usually for hours, and I made a lot of contacts. Not only domestic QSOs, mind you, but a ton of DX too. It seemed as though an envelope would arrive every few weeks from the ARRL DX QSL Bureau, jammed full of wonderful and exotic cards from locations most kids had never even heard of.

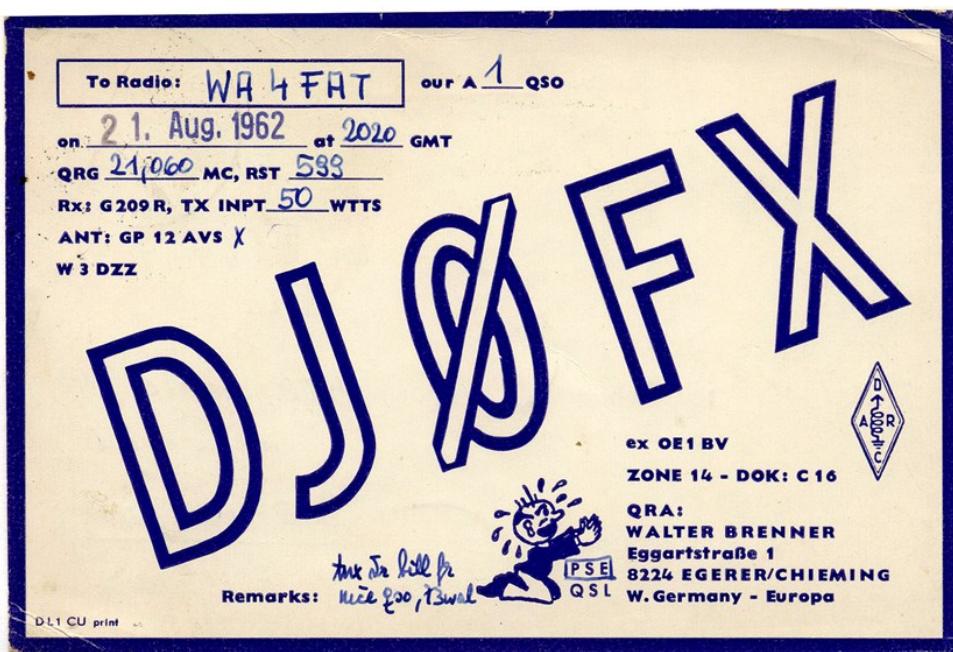
And this continued mostly unabated right up until the time I turned 14. That was the year a Honda 50 rolled into my life, along with the sublime discovery of girls, and Amateur Radio took a major back seat.

And there were other times along the way during which Amateur Radio resumed its leadership role in my life. Throughout college, shipboard in the Navy, and then again after my children were nearly grown I found bursts of activity, but this past March brought the most poignant return to hamming. You see I'd been inactive for 20 years while life and business and other pursuits took centre stage. And suddenly I found myself not unlike that 12-year old again who just couldn't get enough. It's different now, of course. I find rag chews more warmly satisfying and curiously seem to have much more in common with the other old timers I meet on the air. The lure of DX isn't quite as compelling and the competitive nature of contesting requires more time than my schedule allows. But the hobby is just as stimulating and thoroughly enjoyable as ever this time around, and for that I'm extremely grateful.

I've rekindled a joy of QSLing too, and was thumbing through old cards from long ago when I spied one that caused me to laugh. Right there on the front was a caricature of the guy I've become. A little man down on his knees, tears streaming from his eyes, and begging for a return QSL. Yep, that's me these days, I thought.

And I should have put away the card and ended it right there, but I didn't. Instead, I placed the QSL on the bed of my scanner and captured a digital image. And then, in a moment of inexplicable spontaneity scanned QRZ for the guy's call sign. And sure enough, there he was, still apparently kicking after all these years, and his email address was listed along with his postal address too. And you can imagine what I did next. That's right, I emailed Walt in Germany an image of his QSL from 52 years

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Wen-Do-Lin Traveller's Rest (ZS4D) at Glen, just off the N1

<http://www.wen-do-lin.com> e-mail: mcwilson@telkomza.net

earlier.

"Hi OM, sure hope you receive this, I wrote. Ran across your QSL from 1962 and though to myself that you must enjoy QSLs as much as I. Hope you're well, my friend. 73/DX, Bill"

And that was that, and I didn't seriously expect a reply. Walt would have to be an old coot like me by now, and who knows if he's still active in Amateur Radio anyway. He could well be in the middle of one of those lulls that punctuated my career, or perhaps even out of the hobby altogether.

And several days elapsed and thoughts of the little man down on his knees beseeching a QSL faded. But then, late one night, my phone rang. And it was Walt calling from Europe.

And I learned that Walt was indeed still very much an active operator these days. Not only that, but Walt had meticulously logged every contact he had ever made, including whether or not he had sent a QSL or received one in return. And I was busted.

"Dear Bill", he spoke, with only the faintest hint of an accent. "Thank you for sharing that image of my card from so many years ago. And do you know we also worked on 40 CW too?", he questioned. And I almost knew what was coming next. "I'm afraid I never received your QSL", he confirmed, "and I would very much like to have it."

Few of us have an opportunity to repair our youthful transgressions, but fate had given me a second chance and so I leaped at the opportunity. This time, when I told Walt my QSL was on its way, I meant it, and I scarcely let my shirt tail touch my back as I raced to the Post Office for International postage to seal the deal.

And I sent two custom cards, one for each contact, along with an apology for the QSLs that must surely have been lost in the mail, all the while knowing with chagrin that I likely never sent a card in the first place. And the mailing of those long overdue cards to Walt filled me with warm satisfaction, even a sense of pride, and I beamed for the entire day at the thought of it.

And another week passed by, quickly too, as is the case for me now. Isn't it curious how time seems to accelerate as we grow older? And then an email arrived from Walt.

"Hello Bill, tnx for your QSLs. Now my 2 new designed QSLs are via AIRMAIL on the way to you. You can see it on the photo. Hope we have a QSO in the future. 73 Walt"

And so this is how it came to pass that a QSL took more than half a century to arrive. And if I tell you my QSL is on its way, you can bank on it.

SOTABEAMS QRP Mountain Tuner

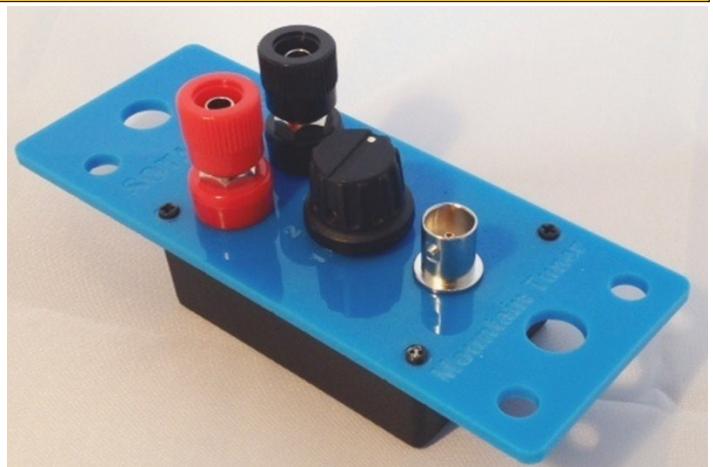
Portable radio specialists SOTABEAMS has introduced a kit version of their popular QRP Mountain Tuner. The Mountain Tuner is designed for use with end-fed half-wave antennas from 40 through to 17 metres. The Mountain Tuner is rated at 6 Watts.

The unique design allows the Mountain Tuner to be pegged down along with the end of the antenna making it easier to use. It also provides a mounting option to use the tuner with an elevated feed system. This reduces losses by keeping the end of the antenna clear of the ground.

The Mountain Tuner is now available ready-built or as a kit.

An end-fed half wave is one of the most popular and convenient antennas for portable operating. However, most standard antenna tuners cannot match them properly due to their high impedance. That's where our Mountain Tuner comes in!

Get on the RaDAR....and GO!



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BNC socket fitted

Size 125 x 50 x 50 mm

Weight 80 g

Rain resistant design

Mounting holes to enable the tuner to be pegged down or to allow it to be used in an elevated feed system for even better performance

4 mm sockets/binding posts for the antenna and counterpoise allow easy connections

Calibrated tune knob so that you can record the perfect settings easily for your own antennas

4 mm plugs included

6 Watt rating

Available ready-built or as a kit.

Downloadable user manual www.sotabeams.co.uk/content/Mountain%20tuner%20downloadable.pdf

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The Mountain Tuner is our neat little half-wave end-fed antenna tuner. Like all our products, it's designed to be effective and robust. Weighing in at just 80 g, it's light but it's no lightweight. The Mountain Tuner covers the most popular HF bands for portable operating: 40, 30, 20 and 17 m.

Features

40, 30, 20 and 17 m: all the most popular bands for HF portable operating

Accessories

Lightweight patch leads, BNC - BNC and BNC - PL259

Normal Price: £19.95 (including Tax)

Price: £16.63 (excluding Tax)

Note: Customers outside Europe pay the lower (excluding Tax) price!

<http://www.sotabeams.co.uk/mountain-tuner-40-17m-kit-or-built/>

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 18 to 25 August 2014

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 20 August and

03:00 - 04:00 UTC 21 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5

watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 23 August 2014

Post log summary at:

www.hornucopia.com/3830score/

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 21 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 22 August 2014

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.grpfoxyhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 22 August

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

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(Continued from page 6)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 24 August 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

NCCC Sprint Ladder

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 22 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 24 August 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

Hawaii QSO Party

04:00 UTC 23 August to 04:00 UTC 25 August

Mode: CW, Phone, RTTY, PSK

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op Mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Technician CW and SSB - 200 W; Single Op CW - low or high; Single Op Digital High Power; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts CW/RTTY/PSK, 10 watts SSB

Exchange: HI: RS(T) and QTH ID; non-HI W/VE: RS (T) and state or province; DX: RS(T)

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: HI: Each HI QTH ID once; HI: Each state, province, territory or country once; non-HI: Each HI QTH ID once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 30 September 2014

E-mail logs to:

awards@hawaiqso.org

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.hiqsoparty.org/Rules/HQP/HQPRules.html>

Kansas QSO Party

14:00 UTC 23 August to 02:00 UTC 24 August and 14:00 UTC-20:00 UTC 24 August

Mode: CW, SSB, Digital

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Op; School; Mobile Single Op - CW or mixed - low power; Mobile Multi-Op Single Radio; Mobile Unlimited; Mobile Unassisted; Mobile SSB low power

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: KS: RS(T) and county; non-KS: RS(T) and state, VE section or "DX"

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 2 points per phone QSO; 3 points per CW/digital QSO; Bonus: 100 points for at least one QSO with KS0KS

Multipliers: KS: Each US state, VE section and "DX" once; non-KS: Each KS county once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and Bonus Points

Submit logs by: 1 October 2014

E-mail logs to: logs@ksqso.org

Mail logs to: Kansas QSO Party, c/o Bob Harder, WO8H, Box 3000, Hesston, KS 67062, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.ksqso.org/rules/KSQPRules2014.pdf>

QRP ARCI Welcome to QRP

15:00 - 18:00 UTC 23 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - all band, low band or high band; Elmer Assisted - all band, low band or high band

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and ARCI number or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with ARCI member; 4 points per non-member QSO with different continent; 2 points per non-member QSO with same continent; Bonus points: 5 000 for battery power portable with temporary antenna

Multipliers: States, once per band; VE Provinces, once per band; Countries, once per band

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Power Mult: >5 W = x 1, 1 - 5
W = x 7, 500 mW - 1 W = x
10, 200 - 500 mW = x 15, 55

-200 mW = x 20, <55 mW = x 25

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x (state mults and province mults and country mults) x power mult) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 7 September 2014

E-mail logs to: contest@qrparci.org

Mail logs to: QRP ARCI Welcome to QRP Contest, c/o Jeff Hetherington, VA3JFF, 139 Elizabeth St. W., Welland, Ontario L3C 4M3, Canada

Find rules at: <http://www.qrparci.org/>

Ohio QSO Party

16:00 UTC 23 August to 04:00 UTC 24 August

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - high, low or QRP; Multi-Op; EOC; Mobile; Rover

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts CW, 10 watts SSB

Exchange: OH: Serial no and county; non-OH: Serial no and state, province or "DX"

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per SSB QSO; 2 points per CW QSO

Multipliers: OH Stations: Each state, province, OH county, 1 DX once per mode; non-OH Stations: Each OH county once per mode

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Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults (see rules for mobile stations)

Submit logs by: 22 September 2014

E-mail logs to: logs@ohqp.org

Mail logs to: Ohio QSO Party, c/o Jim Stahl, K8MR, 30499 Jackson Rd., Chagrin Falls, OH 44022-1730, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.ohqp.org/adminRules.htm>

CVA SSB DX Contest

21:00 UTC 23 August to 21:00 UTC 24 August

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band - low or high; Multi-Single - low or high; Multi-Two; Headquarters; Teen Single Op; YL Single Op

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RS and type/UF (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each UF once per band; Each country once only

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 15 September 2014

E-mail logs to: ssb@craec.org

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.craec.org>

Next Weeks Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 27 August

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 27 August, 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 28 August

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 28 August

RSGB 80 m Club Sprint, SSB, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 28 August

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 29 August

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 29 August

Colorado QSO Party, 12:00 UTC 30 August to 04:00 UTC 31 August

SCC RTTY Championship, 12:00 UTC 30 August to 11:59 UTC 31 August

YO DX HF Contest, 12:00 UTC 30 August to 12:00 UTC 31 August

SARL HF CW Contest, 13:00 - 16:30 UTC 31 August

MI QRP Labour Day CW Sprint, 23:00 UTC 1 September to 03:00 UTC 2 September

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 2 September



The West Rand Amateur Radio Club is hosting its next flea market 12:00 on Saturday 30 August 2014 at their clubhouse in Kroton street, Weltevredenpark, Roodepoort. Everybody is welcome. For more information contact Noel, ZR6DX, on 082 490 9934.

So take your fleas to the market!



December YOTA month! - 2014 edition

A

fter having last year the first edition of December YOTA month, it's time for a new one. During the whole month of December several countries will become active with YOTA as a suffix in the call sign.



The idea for this, is to break the ice for some youngsters and take the microphone in the hand. As seen over the years, the YOTA-group is growing fast and every week more youngsters are asking to participate. Let us all make YOTA popular in HAM radio and let us all help to put youngsters on the HAM radio train!

Would you like to participate? Send an e-mail to december@ham-yota.com. Register at least before 24 November.

The rules are simple:

1. Follow the rules. Although this is a friendly activity, some rules are needed.
2. Have a call sign with YOTA in the suffix, e.g. PA6YOTA; ZS9YOTA
3. Maximum of 2 call signs per country
4. Applicants must ensure that the call sign is used primarily to put Youngsters on the Air (Youngsters are defined by IARU Region 1 as 'under-26')
5. All QSOs must be logged and send as an ADIF file before 10 January 2015
6. Make sure the call sign is regularly on air, as there are people searching for it
7. All QSOs must be made during December 2014.
8. This is NOT a contest; we are trying to spread the word! Talk to people about what we do, not only a quick 5/9. Admitted, a pile-up is always fun and of-course we all love it!

Detailed information about the award, QSL handling and rules are coming soon in a bulletin.

December YOTA month! is not limited to European countries only. This could be the first worldwide YOTA event!

73's and hope to hear from you! Tommy, ON2TD. and Lisa. PA2LS, on behalf of Youngsters on the Air team

History this Week, week starting 11 August 2014

HISTORY



79 - Vesuvius erupts and Pompeii is destroyed

1814 - The British sack Washington, DC, and Government House is burnt. The building gets painted with whitewash to cover the damage - hence the name 'the White House' was born

1841 - John Hampson patents the venetian blind

1889 - The first ship-to-shore wireless message received in USA (San Francisco)

1896 - The dial telephone is patented

1907 - The Bréguet-Richet Gyroplane No 1 made what is generally accepted as the first vertical flight, hovering about 0,6 meters off the ground

1934 - In Germany, a plebiscite was held in which 89,9 percent of German voters approved granting Chancellor Adolf Hitler additional powers, including the office of president

1939 - German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop and Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov, a chief henchman of Joseph Stalin, met in Moscow to sign a non-aggression pact between fascist Germany and the Soviet Union.

1962 - *The Savannah*, the world's first nuclear-powered ship, completed her maiden voyage from Yorktown, Va., to Savannah, Ga.

1991 - Soviet hard-line Communists staged a coup, temporarily removing Mikhail Gorbachev from power. The coup failed within 72 hours as democratic reformer Boris Yeltsin rallied the Russian people. Yeltsin then became the leading power in the country. The Communist Party was soon banned and by December the Soviet Union itself disintegrated.

Items used with acknowledgement to *The ARRL Letter*, *Amateur Radio Newsline*, *OPDX Bulletin*, *425 DX Bulletin*, *DXNL DX Newsletter*, *ARRL DX News*, *WIA-News*, *the RSGB News*, *Southgate ARC News*, *DxCoffee* and *the Islands*, *Castles & Portable Operations Bulletin*